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In Summary

F.B.I. Shows Off Its Tame Spy

American-Soviet double-agency has never quite had the dash of the London-Moscow axis, with its Philbys, Penkovskys and Blunts. And so it was last week when the Federal Bureau of Investigation unveiled Col. Rudolph Albert Herrmann, a 25-year K.G.B. veteran, who apparently has been working for Washington while working for Moscow for years.

In the suburban New York community where he lived since 1968, Mr. Herrmann was known as Rudy — a friendly and popular man, who said he was a freelance filmmaker. He did make films. He also traveled, across the country, to pick up political and economic information, and on Soviet orders, once tried (unsuccessfully) to thwart a manned Apollo flight by sending an anonymous letter to American space officials warning the mission was sabotaged. Generally, his work seems to have been pretty prosaic.

Nevertheless, his efforts won him several Moscow promotions, and American intelligence attention. In return for freedom from prosecution, he began supplying information on other agents of the Soviet Committee for State Security and on Russian spy-craft. Part of the deal was last week's "public" appearance, behind an illuminated screen and through a voice-disguising device, and a new identity for himself and his family.

But the new F.B.I. has been concentrating as much on white-collar crime as on spies, and last week director William H. Webster got a less than warm reception from members of a House subcommittee. Their concern: that the eight legislators caught in the bureau's Abscam sting were law-abiding citizens lured into taking bribes by G-men posing as sheiks. Mr. Webster called the process little different from that of catching truck hijackers. The Congressmen, he said, were attracted by a process of "self-selection."